

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 000808

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA, WHA/PD, WHA/CCA, WHA/PPC, AND WHA/CEN
STATE FOR DRL, DRL/MLA, IO, INR, AND IIP/G/WHA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KPAO](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [CU](#) [HO](#) [CHR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON UNCHR RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
IN CUBA, APRIL 15, 2005

1. On 4/14, the Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" published a press release by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs titled "Honduras will vote against Cuba." The San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "Tiempo" carried an article entitled "Honduras supports the U.S. in resolution against Cuba."

2. On 4/14, the evening television newscast "Hoy Mismo" on Channel 3 broadcast a statement by Leonidas Rosa Bautista, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who said "Honduras is exercising its multilateral right as a member of the UNCHR to vote as we think appropriate, we haven't presented a resolution as we did last year, we have exercised our right to vote as other twenty countries did, since the final result was 21 to 17 in favor of the resolution." The Cuban ambassador in Honduras responded, "I'm not authorized to speculate about the reaction of the Cuban government on Honduras' support to the UNCHR resolution. These matters are decided by the top authorities of each country."

3. On 4/14, the evening television newscast "Vica Noticias" on Channel 9 also broadcast a statement by Minister Rosa, "We have exercised our sovereign opinion, I believe we as Hondurans should be proud of our international relations, we have always acted in accordance to our democratic principles."

4. On 4/15, "Tiempo" published an article titled "Minister of Foreign Affairs tries to justify vote which favors embargo against Cuba," which included the following statement from the FM, "Honduras hasn't presented the resolution and neither has it sponsored it, we have read its content and we favor the resolution presented by the U.S." It also ran three AFP wire stories, entitled "U.N. condemns Cuba," "Cuba counterattacks, asks to investigate Guantanamo," "Exiled Cubans celebrate." The Tegucigalpa-based moderate daily "El Heraldo" carried a statement by the Cuban ambassador in Honduras, titled "Our cooperation will continue." It also published an AP story entitled "U.N. condemns human rights situation in Cuba." La Tribuna ran three AFP articles, titled "U.N. condemns Cuba," "Perez Roque: Mexico betrayed us," "Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs criticizes 'pathetic and submissive' role of EU."

Palmer